

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05763 171749Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 SSO-00 CA-01  
VO-05 INSE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
INRE-00 /062 W  
-----047855 171752Z /47

O 171739Z APR 78  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8477  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SREF, VM  
SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD GREEK VESSEL LYDIA

REF: A. STATE 96524; B. ATHENS 3169; C. ATHENS 2855

1. DEPUTY UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES HAS JUST CALLED MISSION TO REPORT THAT UNHCR REP IN NAIROBI TELEPHONED THEM TO SAY THAT KENYAN GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED AUTHORIZATION FOR REFUGEES ABOARD LYDIA TO LAND BECAUSE OF U.S. EMBASSY NAIROBI'S STATEMENT THAT U.S. DID NOT AGREE TO ACCEPT THEM ALL. DEPUTY HIGHCOMM WAS TOLD THIS WAS CORRECT AND EMBASSY WAS ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON, AND CONSIDERED RESPONSIBILITY WAS STILL THAT OF UNHCR AND GREEK GOVERNMENT. USG HOPED THAT UNHCR WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL IN FINDING RESETTLEMENT POSSIBILITIES IN THIRD COUNTRIES FOR AS MANY IN THIS GROUP AS POSSIBLE.

2. DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER READILY UNDERSTOOD FOREGOING BUT SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF U.S. EMBASSY NAIROBI MIGHT ASSURE KENYAN GOVERNMENT THAT UNHCR HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN PAST IN RESETTLING REFUGEES IT HAS ACCEPTED IN COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM. SUCH AN ASSURANCE, HE FELT, WOULD BE HELPFUL IN INDUCING GOK TO PERMIT REFUGEES TO LAND FOR NINETY DAYS AS ORIGINALLY AGREED. DEPUTY HIGHCOMM POINTED OUT THAT TIME WAS IMPORTANT FACTOR SINCE LYDIA WAS SCHEDULED TO SAIL FOR ITS NEXT PORT OF CALL, DURBAN, TOMORROW EVENING, APRIL 18.

3. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF SOUTH AFRICA'S RATHER POOR  
TRACK RECORD IN HANDLING REFUGEES IN THE PAST, AND LACK  
OF UNHCR REPRESENTATION THERE, WE FEEL IT DESIRABLE TO DO  
UTMOST TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM IN MOMBASA RATHER THAN TO  
TRANSFER IT TO DURBAN. THIS IS COMPLETELY APART FROM THE  
HUMANITARIAN ASPECT OF PUTTING THE REFUGEES ASHORE AS SOON  
AS POSSIBLE, AND RELIEVING THE SHIP'S COMPANY OF A HUMANI-  
TARIAN BURDEN THEY VOLUNTARILY ASSUMED TWO WEEKS AGO.  
VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, SHIPS, LYDIA  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978GENEVA05763  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780164-0397  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** f3fb27ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 96524, 78 ATHENS 3169, 78 ATHENS 2855  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD GREEK VESSEL LYDIA  
**TAGS:** SREF, VM, KE  
**To:** STATE NAIROBI  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/f3fb27ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014